

## HONORING BOB OPSAHL

**HON. DANIEL WEBSTER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 25, 2016*

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize the service of Bob Opsahl, the early evening news anchor for Cox Media Group Orlando's Channel 9 Eyewitness News. After nearly 38 years of faithful work with the television station, Bob Opsahl will be retiring this week.

In 1978, Bob joined the WFTV Eyewitness News Team as a general assignment reporter, and began anchoring on the weekends in 1980. Since then, Bob Opsahl has become a familiar face as a trusted and consistent evening newscast anchor in Central Florida.

After serving four years in the U.S. Navy, Bob graduated from the University of Central Florida in 1976 with a major in Radio and Television Communications. Opsahl later received the Distinguished Alumnus Award from his alma mater, and has been widely recognized for his community involvement, specific attention to special needs children, and excellence in journalism and reporting.

Through the decades, Bob Opsahl covered many major events such as the Challenger and Columbia space shuttle tragedies, Hurricane Andrew's impact in South Florida, the inauguration of President George H.W. Bush, the 2000 Florida recount, and the Casey Anthony Trial. Bob Opsahl has been a reliable familiar and trusted news source, relaying it with clarity and heart. Bob will be missed in Central Florida.

## HONORING WADE CLARK ROOF

**HON. LOIS CAPPS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 25, 2016*

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Wade Clark Roof, who is retiring as the Director of the Walter H. Capps Center at the University of California at Santa Barbara.

Wade has had a distinguished career as a leader, educator, and colleague on California's central coast and exemplifies the qualities of a true academic. Wade graduated from Wofford University in 1961 magna cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa. Having formed an interest in theological studies and religion, Wade moved to New Haven, Connecticut where he studied at Yale University, receiving his Master of Divinity degree in 1964, before earning a Ph.D. in Sociology at the University of North Carolina in 1971.

Following the completion of his doctorate, Wade accepted a professorship at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst where he taught research methods for studying religion, religious pluralism, and religion and society. In 1989, Wade moved to the University of California at Santa Barbara (UCSB), where he was named the Rowny Professor of Religion and Society. He has been an irreplaceable part of the UCSB community ever since.

Wade is a gifted educator who constantly challenges his students to reflect on the changing roles of religion in society and analyze how changes in religion, faith, and spiritu-

ality have affected how we define ourselves as Americans. He is also a prolific author. Throughout his academic career Wade has produced many works of scholarship, including 17 books and edited collections, 88 journal articles and book chapters, and dozens of newspaper editorials. In addition, he has provided professional commentary for various media outlets including Time, Newsweek, New York Times, Washington Post, and the LA Times.

It is also important to note that Wade is a trusted colleague and friend, something I have experienced firsthand. Wade worked with my husband Walter in the Department of Religious Studies at UCSB. After Walter's passing, Wade raised \$2 million in matching funds to establish the Walter H. Capps Center for the Study of Ethics, Religion, and Public Life at UCSB. Serving as the center's founding director from 2002 to 2016, Wade has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to the center's mission: "the belief that public dialogue and an informed and engaged citizenry are vital to democratic society." He is a dear friend, and I am so grateful for his indispensable contributions to honor Walter's legacy through the Capps Center and their innovative programming.

Wade has announced his retirement and will be starting a new chapter. He can do so knowing that his work and influence have been immeasurable and will continue to have an effect on his students and the entire UCSB community for many years to come.

I am pleased to celebrate Wade's countless achievements and I would like to express my utmost gratitude for his service to his students and community. I wish him nothing but continued success in his retirement.

## HONORING THE ALICE HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMIC DECATHLON TEAM

**HON. FILEMON VELA**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 25, 2016*

Mr. VELA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Alice, Texas High School Academic Decathlon Team for winning the state title. After countless hours of studying and preparation, their record-breaking performance demonstrates the remarkable talent and dedication of these bright students.

The Alice team is the first Title 1 school—one with a disproportionate number of students from low-income families—to win an Academic Decathlon at any level in Texas. They defeated 29 other qualifying schools to claim the state championship. After 14 consecutive regional titles won by Alice teams, this year's squad shattered the previous 5A state record by scoring 50,292 points in the competition. Alice High School is one of only eight institutions to score above 50,000 points in the 30-year history of the Texas Academic Decathlon.

I also want to recognize the coaches, teachers, parents, school administrators, and everyone who has helped in developing the minds of these champions. Their support, and that of other role models, has contributed greatly to the past decade and a half of success at Alice High School.

Success in Academic Decathlon competitions requires levels of commitment and prep-

aration that go well beyond what is asked of a typical high schooler. Each round consists of ten events, including a seven-minute interview, an essay, two speeches, and comprehensive written exams in subjects from music to literature to economics. Not only did these Alice students outperform the competition, they did so with fewer resources and advantages than many of their opponents.

I commend these students for studying many hours each week to prepare for the State Academic Decathlon competition, and for bringing home the top prize. The future could hardly be brighter for each of them. I rise today to share my congratulations and applaud their efforts.

## CELEBRATING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF BETHANY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

**HON. CHARLES W. DENT**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 25, 2016*

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor and a privilege to bring to the House's attention the 125th Anniversary of the Bethany United Church of Christ located in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, and to offer congratulations to the congregation.

Bethany UCC, located at the corner of 5th Avenue and West Market Street in Bethlehem, was originally founded in order to provide a conveniently located place of worship for the western portion of Bethlehem that would help alleviate the over-crowding at the First Reformed Church of Christ in the City.

One hundred twenty five years later, Bethany UCC continues to thrive with an engaged congregation who immerse themselves in their community to aid and enrich the lives of others through service, fellowship, and music.

My heartfelt congratulations are extended to the members of the Bethany United Church of Christ on this 125th Anniversary. I believe I speak on behalf of the community when I thank them for their efforts on behalf of the people of the Lehigh Valley.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House to join me in offering well wishes and congratulations to the men and women of Bethlehem's Bethany United Church of Christ. May the next 125 years foster additional congregational growth and provide further opportunities for continued service and fellowship within the Bethlehem community.

## IN RECOGNITION OF HELENE M. WHITAKER FOR THIRTY-ONE YEARS OF SERVICE TO NORTHAMPTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

**HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 25, 2016*

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Helene M. Whitaker, vice president for administrative affairs at Northampton Community College, where she is responsible for government relations, planning, institutional research, human resources, and labor relations.